

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

FEBRUARY 6, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 3, 2004, **GREGORY LEE COAN**, age 41, of Olney, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one count Indictment.

Count 1 charges that from on or about Fall 1999, the exact date being unknown, through on or about January 2004, in Richland County, and elsewhere in the Southern District of Illinois, COAN was involved in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute fifty (50) grams or more of a mixture and substance containing methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B); all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

Count 1 carries a possible penalty of 5-40 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of supervised release of not less than 4 years.

The investigation was conducted by the Richland County Sheriff's Office, and the Olney Police Department, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.